

Bethel & Sheldon Branch Hours To Change Starting July 1

A message from Connie J. Bennett Director, Eugene Public Library

Every day at the Library, I'm inspired by Eugeneans' enthusiastic use and support of library services. During the City of Eugene's recent budget planning process, I have also been appreciative of City leadership's commitment to the Library, even as very tough budget reductions have become unavoidable.

As you are likely aware, this year the City has had to right-size our budget to meet the community's needs in a fiscally sustainable manner. After much analysis, creativity, and discussion by elected officials, staff, and members of the public (including the City of Eugene Budget Committee and the Library Advisory Board), the budget for the coming fiscal year (July 2012 - June 2013) has now been determined by the City Council.

These days, we hear every day about closures of public libraries across the nation. Given that, I am relieved that the cost-saving strategy adopted here will **keep all three locations open** (Downtown, Bethel, and Sheldon) and **keep Library services available 7 days a week** (in person Downtown, as well as by phone, online chat, and text).

However, I am very sorry that in order to deliver the most services to the most people, with a lower budget, the open hours at the Bethel and Sheldon branches must be reduced. The new hours will be:

Bethel & Sheldon Branch Hours starting July 1

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday & Monday: closed

This schedule places a priority on maintaining easy neighborhood access during the weekends, as well as for weekday educational storytimes and after-school visits for children and families.

The Downtown Library will remain open for everyone Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Friday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; and on First Fridays of each month, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Library website will remain open for business 24/7, offering an increasing number of convenient services. These include the Library catalog, where you will still be able to place requests for books to be delivered to the branch of your choice, as well as online services such as eBooks, research assistance, homework help, language lessons, and information on a wide range of topics.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Library's Customer Experience Manager, LaVena Nohrenberg, at 541-682-8314 or lavena.r.nohrenberg@ci.eugene.or.us.

Thank you for your understanding as we move through this transition. We're still here for you -- and we appreciate your support!

